

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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R 062030Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (GRAHAM, KATHERINE), MO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHER KATHERINE
GRAHAM TO MOROCCO

1. POST REPORTER JIM HOAGLAND BRIEFED AFN OFFICERS IN MORE DETAIL ON GRAHAM TRIP ON MAY 5, EXPLAINING THAT SHE IS PRIMARILY COLLECTING IMPRESSIONS IN HER ROLE AS MEMBER OF VIP PANEL ON NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE CHAIRED BY WILLI BRANDT, AND THAT AFRICAN TRIP WILL FOLLOW MEETING OF PANEL IN LONDON ON MAY 10.
 2. HOAGLAND SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING MRS. GRAHAM. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN AND SAID LATTER IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECT FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH KING, DURING WHICH GRAHAM EXPECTS AN ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW.
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HE IS LUNCHING WITH BENGELLOUN ON MAY 10 AND EXPECTS AN ANSWER FROM RABAT BY THEN. WE WARNED THAT THEIR ARRIVAL IN MOROCCO COINCIDES WITH OPENING OF UN SPECIAL SESSION, WHICH KING MIGHT YET DECIDE TO ATTEND. HOAGLAND REPLIED THAT BENGELLOUN IS GOING TO COUNSEL AGAINST SUCH A TRIP WHEN HE RETURNS TO RABAT ON MAY 16. (BENGELLOUN HAD TOLD US EARLIER THAT SOME OR ALL MOROCCAN AMBASSADORS WERE BEING CALLED HOME

IN MID-MAY FOR MEETINGS WITH KING.)

3. GRAHAM/HOAGLAND TENTATIVE TRAVEL PLANS ARE TO ARRIVE NOUASSEUR MAY 23 AT APPROXIMATELY 1630 ON CALEDONIA AIRLINES FLIGHT FROM BANJUL VIA CANARIES, AND GO IMMEDIATELY TO RABAT. SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL WOULD INCLUDE FEZ AND/OR MARRAKECH, DEPENDING PRINCIPALLY ON LOCATION OF KING AND TIMING OF AUDIENCE. HOAGLAND SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM SCHEDULING LATER AND FOR TIME BEING WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE. THE TWO MIGHT STAY IN MOROCCO THROUGH MAY 27.

4. AFN OFFICERS RELAYED AMBASSADOR ANDERSON'S TELEPHONE OFFER TO MRS. GRAHAM TO STAY IN RESIDENCE AND PROVIDE HOSPITALITY. HOAGLAND THOUGHT SHE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING MET BY EMBASSY OFFICER AT NOUASSEUR AND GIVEN BRIEFING IN CAR ENROUTE TO RABAT BUT PREFERS TO STAY IN HOTELS DURING TRIP. SHE HAS REQUESTED RESERVATIONS AT TOUR HASSAN IN RABAT. IN THE EVENT AMBASSADOR WANTS TO HAVE LUNCH OR DINNER FOR HER, HOAGLAND COUNSELLED THAT SHE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP GROUP INFORMAL AND VERY SMALL (IDEALLY AROUND SIX). HE SAID HER FRENCH IS GOOD.

5. WE WILL FORWARD FURTHER DETAILS WHEN WE HEAR FROM HOAGLAND NEXT WEEK. IT IS CLEAR HE PLANS RELY IN FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTANCE ON MOROCCANS FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT AS WELL AS SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS.

6. FOR ALGIERS: DURING MEETING WITH AFN, HOAGLAND SPECULATED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF A STOPOFF IN ALGIERS AND INTERVIEW WITH BOUMEDIENE, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS GENERALLY INACCESSIBLE TO PRESS. HOWEVER, HE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD POSTPONE THIS FOR A LATER TRIP. CHRISTOPHER

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